

Andrew Jackson to Richard Keith Call, November 15, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO CAPTAIN RICHARD K. CALL.

Hermitage, November 15, 1821.

Dear Call. I had the pleasure last evening of receiving your two letters of the 14th ult.¹ nothing can afford Mrs. Jackson and myself more

¹ One of these two letters, written from Pensacola, is in the Jackson MSS. It is here quoted: “ *My Dear General:* Since fortune has doomed our Separation permit me to offer an acknowledgement of the generous, and disinterested friendship with which you have honoured me, and to express that gratitude, which I must ever feel for the many favours you have bestowed upon me. At an early period of life it was my happy destiny to be placed under your distinguished command. A stranger without experience, and without the recommendation of friends or fortune with the generous feelings of a Soldier you received me, with the council of friend you directed, and with the care of a Parent you watched over me. Believe me Sir this is not the idle effusion of the moment, it is not the ordinary expressions of regard I offer you, it is the sincerest tribute of a grateful heart. To have followed your fortune through the changes and vicissitudes of war, to have been tutored by your councils and honoured with your confidence is the proudest and the happiest recollection of my life, and however chance or fortune may direct my future destiny be assured my gratitude will only terminate with my existence. That your life may be as happy as it has been distinguished and useful is the sincere prayer of your Obligated and Sincere friend”

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pleasure than in hearing from you often, and particularly that you are well, and doing well. Your gratitude expressed of my friendship towards you, shews the godlike virtue of a heart susceptible of friendship. Believe me when I first met with you in the field, your youthfull appearance, your manly and soldier like deportment, attracted my attention, and when mutiny and desertion prevaded my camp, when situated in the howling wilderness surrounded with the savage yell, it was your soldier like and honourable conduct when deserted by your company at this trying moment that drew my particular attention to you, to see a gallant youth of Eighteen abandoned by his captain and company all retiring from the field of Honour, and you left alone, determined to die, rather than tarnish your military fame, by retiring from the post of danger in disgrace. From that moment my opinion was formed of you and I cherished your Youthfull merit for your countries good, and aided in promoting your rank as your merit increased, and your Talents were disclosed to me. I regret our seperation but I still more regret, that injustice and inattention of the executive in not having provided for your agreable to his promise and my expectation. But my Dear Call I have been Tossed upon the waves of fortune from youth[h]ood, I have experienced prosperity and adversity. It was this that gave me a knowledge of human nature, it was this that forced into action, all the energies of my mind, and ultimately caused me to progress through life as I have done—hence this neglect of the Goverment may be of service to you, it has and will bring forth, from necessity, the best energies of your mind, and with your application and industry, you will, nay, you must succeed. Pe[r]mit me to say to you that long experience has made me well acquainted with human nature. It is well to study it as you progress through life—you will find many, professedly, friends, who by, and from their openness of conduct, and specious professions, the inexperienced youth, at once places the utmost reliance—when in many Instances these professions are made with a view to obtain your confidence that it may be betrayed. To guard against such impositions there is but one safe rule—have apparent confidence in all, but never make a confident of any untill you have proven him worthy of it, and altho you may have good cause to know and believe that great confidence may be placed in him, never, untill you have well tried

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him, confide to any a secrete that might be injurious to you if publickly known. This I have found a safe rule and have practised upon it.

I met Miss Mary, on the road between Mr. Lemintons and Magees—in company with her [*mutilated*] uncles and little brother, she is on her way to orleans and will sail from thence to Philadelphia with her uncle; she will rest at the Natchez untill her uncle passes to the Tash2 and aranges his business on his farm there. On my arival at Judge Overtons, I wrote you which I hope you will receive, since which I have seen Major Eaton, who informs me, he has had a long conversation with miss Mary, that she still bears you in mind as usual, and from which I have no doubt

2 Bayou Têche, La.

were you now to see her, she would marry. Doctor McNairy has written you as I am Told. his Ideas are certainly correct—you and Miss Mary ought to forget each other, for ever, or at once marry. your minds must ever be on the torture, the conduct, of her mother to her as stated, has been of the most cruel kind, and if yours and her ultimate object is to mary, the sooner the better. you have friends who will aid you, in this number include me, and with your own exertions, you have nothing to fear as to a support.³

3 Call married Mary Letitia Kirkman.

I am happy to hear that all is tranquil in Pensacola. Callava has sailed from Charleston for Cuba. The Eastern climate was too cold for his sickly constitution, and it appears he has retired to Cuba for his health. so soon as Judge Fromentine is unmasked before the nation, I think he will follow—it is this apostate Priest, that has been circulating secretly these mutulated details of the circumstances; Having enclosed to the President all the documents through the Secretary of State, they will I hope be in that way laid before congress, and the nation. Should it not appear in this way I will under my own name, should Fromentine be nominated to the senate, bring it before the nation, and fairly shew how the rights of the people have been triffled with by the appointment of an apostate

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Priest, to execute the laws, and moralise the people. Mrs. Jackson Joins me in prayers for your happiness and welfare, Easter is with me and well, Doctor Brunaugh has this morning set out for Washington city, Mr. Saml Overton has Just left me, and Lt Donelson Just gone on a vissit to his mothers, all these Gentlemen request to be affectionately presented to you. Have the goodness to present Mr[s]. J. and myself to Capt Shields and family, Mr. Garneer and family, Mr. Davidson and family if still with you, to Mr. Smith and Lady, to Colo. Brook and Lady to Lt Lear and his Lady to Mr. and Mrs. Austin, to all our French and Spanish friends.

Mrs. Jackson begs me to remind you of our furniture, to have it forwarded to orleans as soon as possible with instructions to Capt Scallen to have it forwarded to Nashville by the first Steam Boat—our place looks like it had been deserted for a season, But we have a cheirfull fire for our friends, and a prospect of living at it for the [*mutilated*] ballance of our lives. I have sent on my resignation by Doctor Brunaugh. I recd. from Mr. Monroe last night via Pensacola a letter in which he again presses me to continue as Governor, this I will not do. he intimates that Haywood may be the Federal Judge. As you know I have no thought of continuing, but if I had I should be fearfull of accepting before I saw the Judge to whom I was to be associated least another apostate priest should be found. These perjured immorral monsters in society I allways did abhor, they never have or will be my associates. I will be happy to hear from you often. Present us to Cary Nicholas and Tunstall—To all the officers of the army, and say to Capt Donoho that his young widow is in waiting for him, on this subject I will write him the first Leisure moment. Accept assurances of my friendship and Esteem